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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/883,507	06/19/2001	Jeffrey A. Bedell	53470.003040	8695

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EXAMINER

ROBINSON, GRETA LEE

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2169

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06/17/2009

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 09/883,507	Applicant(s) BEDELL ET AL.	
	Examiner Greta L. Robinson	Art Unit 2169	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 13 April 2009.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-7 and 24-31 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-7 and 24-31 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 13 April 2009 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 1-7 and 24-31 are pending in the present application.
2. Claims 1 and 5 have been amended; and new claims 24-31 have been added.
Claims 8-23 have status cancelled.

Drawings

3. The drawings were received on April 13, 2009. These drawings are acceptable.

Terminal Disclaimer

4. The terminal disclaimer filed on April 13, 2009 disclaiming the terminal portion of any patent granted on this application which would extend beyond the expiration date of US Patent 7,356,758 has been reviewed and is accepted. The terminal disclaimer has been recorded.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

5. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

6. Claims 1-7 and 24-31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being incomplete for omitting essential elements, such omission amounting to a gap between the elements. See MPEP § 2172.01. The omitted elements are: the use of a

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template as part of the reporting system structure for creating a report. Note support for this limitation can be found in the following passages: Figure 3 element (306) template, Figure 4, Figure 8 (802), Figure 10, page 18 line 19 through page 19 line 2, and page 30 lines 6-22.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

7. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

8. Claims 1, 3, 24, 26 and 31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Saijyo et al. US Patent 5,604,898 in view of Touma et al. U Patent 6,160,549.

Regarding claim 1, **Saijyo et al.** teaches a reporting system for creating a report using a computer [Figure 4] comprising:

a prompt object comprising a question to be asked of a user and at least one validation property, the prompt object being used to define one or more aspects of a report definition [note: Figure 4 enquiry object generating means (8) and database enquiry statement (7)]; and

a resolution object for collecting an answer to a question of the prompt object for report creation [note: Figure 4 (23); column 1 lines 53-57 “a relational database controlling portion for generating an enquiry object matching with the relational type database for the content to be processed by the relational type database to obtain an answer for that object”];

wherein the resolution object is created and stored prior to execution of a report [note: Figure 4 (25); column 10 lines 28-56 column 8 lines 33-64].

Although Saijyo et al. teaches the invention as cited above, they do not teach a validation property as part of the prompt object. However Touma et al. teaches parameters may be created at runtime to provide objects the ability to change selective criteria during report generation. They describe a validation trigger property that defines a function that can be used to validate a runtime specified parameter [see: abstract, column 7 line 65 through column 8 line 25]. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill at the time of the invention to have combined the cited references because a validation function would provide a means of checking parameters before execution.

9. Regarding claim 3, “wherein the stored resolution object is used to answer a prompt in a report instance during the execution of a report” [note: Saijyo et al. column 4 lines 34-48].

10. The limitations of claims 24, 26 and 31 parallel claims 1 and 3; therefore they are rejected under the same rationale.

Allowable Subject Matter

11. Claims 2, 5-7, 25, and 27-30 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. 112, 2nd paragraph, set forth in this Office action and to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Response to Arguments

12. Applicant's arguments filed April 13, 2009 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

In the response Applicant argued the following: Saijyo et al. does not teach a resolution object.

In response to Applicant's argument the examiner respectfully maintains the rejection. A resolution object is defined as an object for collecting as answer to a question of a prompt object. Saijyo enquiry object performs the same function as a resolution object. Note Figure 4 element (23); column 1 lines 53-57, "a relational database controlling portion for generating an enquiry object matching with the relational type database for the content to be processed by the relational type database **to obtain an answer for that object**". The cited passage teaches an enquiry object's ability to obtain an answer for that object. Saijyo teaches creation of a plurality of objects and the scope of the enquiry object provides for prompt object function (i.e. an object comprising a question to be asked), see column 2 lines 5-12; column 1 lines 53-57 and Figure 4.

The terminal disclaimer filed on April 13, 2009 disclaiming the terminal portion of any patent granted on this application which would extend beyond the expiration date of US Patent 7,356,758 has been reviewed and is accepted. The terminal disclaimer has been recorded.

Conclusion

13. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Everhart et al. US Patent 7,302,639 B1

14. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

15. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Greta L. Robinson whose telephone number is (571)272-4118. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 9:30AM-6:00PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Tony Mahmoudi can be reached on (571)272-4078. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Greta L. Robinson/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2169
June 16, 2009